

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DIWY-01 L-03 OIC-02 EB-07 PA-01

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, IWY, SHUM, UN, HA

SUBJECT: HAITIAN OBSERVATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

REF: STATE 119806

1. SUMMARY: GOH IS TAKING A VERY ACTIVE INTEREST IN THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES CONNECTED WITH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR, INCLUDING ATTENDANCE AT UN CONFERENCE IN MEXICO CITY. A SERIES OF SEMINARS ON WOMEN'S PROBLEMS, HELD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY IN 1974, HAS ALLOWED GOH TO OBTAIN MORE INFO ON NEEDS AND DESIRES OF WOMEN AND TO BRING WOMEN INTO PLANNING PROGRAMS. IN ADDITION, SEVERAL LEGAL MEASURES ARE EXPECTED TO BE TAKEN THIS YEAR TO IMPROVE SITUATION OF WOMEN. END SUMMARYR

2. ATTENDANCE AT WORLD CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR (EXIWY) AT MEXICO CITY: HAITIAN DELEGATION TO WCIWY WILL CONSIST OF FOUR WOMEN: MISS MARIE CARMEL LAFONTANT, CHIEF OF SOCIAL SERVICE DIVISION OF DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HEAD OF DELEGATION; MRS. FERNANDE BALMIR, ASSISTANT TO SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS; MRS. ANTONINE NICOLEAU, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS; AND MS. YVETTE DUJON, PRESIDENT OF NURSING ASSOCIATION. CHIEF INTEREST OF HEAD OF DELEGATION IS EDUCATION FOR WOMEN AND SHE WAS IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH DESIRABILITY OF KEEPING WCIWY FOCUSED ON WOMEN'S ISSUES (PARA 5 OF REFTL). USDEL MAY WISH TO WORK WITH MISS LAFONTANT IN MEXICO SINCE SHI IS DECISIVE AND ARTICULATE,
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AN EXCELLENT ORGANIZER, BUT NOT NECESSARILY AWARE OF THE INS AND

OUTS OF CERDS AND NIEO. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING LIST OF USDEL TO CONFERENCE FOR TRANSMITTAL TO HAITIAN DELEGATION.

3. PRACTICAL ACTION BEING TAKEN IN HAITI IN RESPONSE TO WOMEN'S NEEDS: SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF WOMEN, FORMED AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE OAS-SPONSORED NATIONAL CONERENCE OF WOMEN HELD IN 1974, HAVE BEEN WORKING IN SEVERAL AREAS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO WOMEN. (A) THEY TOOK AN ACTIVE PART IN A NATIONAL SEMINAR ON NUTRITION HELD IN HAITI FROM MAY 19-24 (B) THEY PERSUADED THE GOH TO ENACT A LAW PROVIDING MATERNITY INSURANCE WHICH WILL GO INTO EFFECT OCTOBER 1, 1975, WITH THE NEW FISCAL YEAR (C) THEY HAVE STUDIED THE AREAS OF THE HAITIAN CIVIL CODE (PARTICULARLY THE DIVORCE LAW) WHICH DISCRIMINATE AGAINST WOMEN AND HAVE PROVIDED THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WITH PROPOSED CHANGES TO BE INCORPORATED WITH A CURRENT REFORM OF THE CODE. THEY ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE REFORMS WILL BE ENACTED BY THE END OF THE YEAR. (D) A WOMAN HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO THE HAITIAN PLANNING AGENCY (CONADEP) AS ADVISOR IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEXT FIVE YEAR PLAN TO ENSURE THAT NEEDS OF WOMEN, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY PLANNING WILL BE MET.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: LIST OF US DELEGATIONS TO WCIWY (PER PARA 2).
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Message Attributes

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